

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5 in the 2nd complete paragraph please amend as follows:

One end of the casing 1, the left-hand end as viewed in Fig. 1, is closed by an inwardly domed end cap 3. The opposite end of the casing 1 is adapted for attachment to the tubular inlet of ~~an~~ the axial compressor 100 ~~(not shown)~~ and comprises an annular support plate 4 fitted to an end flange 5, which extends radially inwards from the circumference of the casing 1, by way of annular connection rings 7 and 8. The outer surface (with respect to the volume contained by the casing) of the end flange 5 tapers towards the outer circumference of the support plate 4 which has a smaller diameter than the casing 1. The inside surface of the end flange 5 curves radially towards the inner circumference of the support plate 4 defined around a central outlet aperture 8 which in use will communicate with the compressor inlet 112. The end flange 5 also supports a wash pipe ~~40~~ 40a and wash inlet connector ~~41~~ 41a to enable cleaning fluid to be flushed through the silencer/filter.

On page 5 in the 4th complete paragraph continuing on to page 6 including the first complete paragraph, please amend as follows:

Internally the casing 1 supports an axially spaced array of three annular noise attenuating baffles 9, 10 and 11 each of which defines a central circular aperture 9a, 10a and 11a respectively ~~centred~~ centered on the axis of the casing 1. Each of the baffles 9, 10 and 11 curves radially inwards in the general direction of the axial outlet aperture 8 from its outer circumference which abuts against the inside of the cylindrical casing 1 to its central aperture. The arrangement is such that the axial

separation of the baffles 9, 10, 11, from each other and from the end cap 3 and end flange 5, defines a series of four annular inlet flow passages 12-15 which split the inlet flow into the silencer/filter into four respective partial flows. The central apertures 9a, 10a and 11a of each baffle 9, 10 and 11 have the same diameter, which corresponds to the internal diameter of the annular end flange 5 and thus of the outlet aperture 8, which together define a central axial outlet flow passage to the outlet aperture 8. It will thus be appreciated that the partial flows through the annular inlet passages 12-15 combine at the central axial passage into a single axial flow indicated generally by reference arrow 16.

Each of the baffles 9, 10 and 11, the end cap 3, and the end flange 5 have the same general construction comprising a layer of acoustic material sandwiched between a pair of perforated steel support flanges shaped appropriately. As shown, the perforations ~~11a, 10a~~ 11e, 10e, and 9a 9e are circular. They may be formed in other shapes depending on the construction of the baffles 11, 10 & and 9. Each pair of perforated support flanges may be suitably secured together. Each of the baffles 9-11 comprises a radially inwardly curved annular acoustic element 9b, 10b and 11b respectively, supported between upstream and downstream steel supporting flanges 9c/9d, 10c/10d, and 11c/11d, which match the curvature of the acoustic material elements 9b-11b (all of which have the same curvature).

On page 6 in the 4th paragraph continuing on to page 7, please amend as follows:

The configuration of the flow passages 12-15 resulting from the design and positioning of the baffles 9-11 and end cap ~~2~~ 3 and end flange 5 provides significant

improvements in sound attenuation and reductions in downstream turbulence in the inlet of the compressor. Two important features that contribute to this improved performance are the curvature of the passages 12-15 and the gradation in axial width of the passages.

On page 8 in the 4th paragraph continuing on to page 9, please amend as follows:

In more detail, the silencer/filter module of fig. 3 comprises a frusto-conical shaped casing 30 which supports a similarly frusto-conical shaped filter membrane 31 on its outer surface. One end of the casing 30, the left hand end as shown in Fig. 3, is closed by an internally domed end cap 32 and the opposite end is provided with an annular connecting plate 33 for connection to the tubular inlet of an axial compressor housing. The connecting plate 33 is itself supported by an annular end flange 34 which curves radially inwardly towards an outlet aperture ~~35~~ 35a defined centrally within the connecting plate 33. Additional structural rigidity is provided by a stiffening cone 35 and by longitudinal stiffening members 36 which run along the outside of the casing 30 at various positions around the circumference of the casing 30. Although not visible in Fig. 3, in the particular embodiment illustrated the stiffening members 36 have a “V” cross-section and twelve of the stiffeners are equi-spaced around the circumference of the casing 30.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 1-17 in this case is noted with thanks.